

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A dispenser and display rack for substantially cylindrical articles, said dispenser comprising:

(a) a plurality of vertically disposed panels, each of said panels having one or more rails extending horizontally therefrom toward an opposing one of said panels [vertical panel], said rails of opposing ones of said panels jointly defining a plurality of chutes to guide said articles therebetween,

(b) said chutes further being slightly inclined so as to allow said cylindrical articles to be advanced by means of gravity from an upper position on said panel in said chutes to a lower portion position on said panels in said chutes;

(c) a removal area disposed proximate said lower portion of said chutes for allowing selective removal of one or more of the cylindrical articles from said dispenser; [and]

(d) an access door movable between first and second positions, said access door being mounted proximate said upper portion, said access door being constructed and arranged for closing the upper portion of said chutes in the first position and for opening the upper portion of said chutes in the second

position, said access door further having a front face for advertising display purposes[.];

(e) a plurality of retention pins constructed and arranged to selectively interlock each of said vertical panels to the opposing vertical panel so as to fixedly position said panels relative to each other; and

(f) a plurality of bosses formed proximate each corner of each of said panels, each of said bosses having an aperture defined therein and a lock mechanism associated with said aperture so as to allow selective locking and unlocking of said retention pins relative to such panel.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The dispenser of claim [6] 3 wherein each said [locking] lock mechanism comprises a receptacle formed in the outer wall of said boss wherein, in [the] a first position said retention pin is engaged both horizontally and vertically so as to prevent rotation of said panels and wherein said retention pin when partially removed from said boss and partially removed from said aperture is engaged horizontally but not vertically so as to allow rotation of said retention pin in said aperture, thereby allowing such panels to be advanced toward to or separated from each other until they are in abutment or until said retention pins are fully extended.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A dispensing and display device for cylindrical articles comprising:

a pair of vertical panels [and a pair of] having first and second serpentine chutes formed therebetween, said chutes being inclined relative to horizontal whereby cylindrical articles contained therein may be advanced by gravity towards the lower portion of said display device, said first and second [chute comprising a] chutes each being of substantially C-shaped configuration; said chutes each having an upper portion and a lower portion;

a first stop means proximate to the lower portion of [said] the first [chute] of said chutes for preventing further downward motion of said cylindrical articles [in said first chute] therein;

a second stop means formed proximate the lower portion of [said] the second [chute] of said chutes for preventing further downward motion of said cylindrical articles [in said second chute] therein; [and]

a return area located proximate said first and second [chute] chutes for allowing replacement of one of said cylindrical articles on said display device after removal from said chutes[.];

a plurality of retention pins having a plurality of lengths so as to allow construction of said dispensing device in a plurality of selected widths substantially corresponding to the height of said cylindrical articles;

an access door having clip means attached to the rear face thereof for selective attachment of said access door to one of said retention pins;

said clip means being disposed on the rear face of said access door proximate the lower end of thereof and pivotally connected to said said one of said retention pins so as to allow pivotable movement of said access door away from upper extents of said first and second chutes, thereby allowing selected filling of said chutes with said cylindrical articles.

11. (Currently Amended) The display device of claim 10 where said return area comprises a cradle located proximate the distal end of one of said first and second chutes for allowing [retention] return of one or more cylindrical articles after [replacement] removal of said cylindrical article from said[chutes] device.

12. (Currently Amended) The dispensing and display device of claim 10 wherein said chutes further comprise a first bay area proximate the distal end of said first of said chutes [chute] for allowing selective removal of said cylindrical article therefrom; and

a second bay area proximate the distal end of said second [chute] of said chutes for allowing selective removal of said cylindrical article [from said second chute] therefrom.

13. (Currently Amended) The display device of claim 12 wherein said first bay area is located above said second bay and is offset relative thereto.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The display device of claim [15] 10 wherein said clip means comprise an integrally molded channel formed in each said access door on the rear face thereof for reception of said retention pins.

18. (Original) The dispensing and display device of claim 3 wherein said access door further includes a pair of resilient arms laterally disposed thereon proximate the upper portion of said access door, said resilient arms having a pair of nubs outwardly disposed thereon, said nubs being constructed and arranged for snap locking into corresponding apertures in said panels.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Withdrawn) A method for dispensing cylindrical articles into a dispenser and display rack having a loading end thereon, said dispenser display utilizing a loading magazine containing a plurality of rows of parallel goods contained therein by an enclosing force, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) removing said enclosing force at at least end of said loading magazine;

(b) positioning said open end of said loading magazine proximate the loading end of said dispenser display;

(c) feeding said cylindrical articles from said loading magazine into said dispenser display using gravity to dispense said cylindrical articles from said loading magazine;

(d) advancing said cylindrical articles through said dispenser display using gravity feed; and

(e) stopping the feeding of said cylindrical articles in a plurality of dispensing bays, as required.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 and further comprising:

returning at least one of said cylindrical articles to said dispenser display proximate said dispensing bay while at the same time maintaining the remainder of said cylindrical articles in said dispenser display in their initial position prior to the return of at least one of said cylindrical articles.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn) A method of loading cylindrical articles into an multi-chute gravity feed dispenser display having a plurality of gravity feed dispensing chutes therein, each of said chutes having a loading end and a dispensing end, said method comprising the steps;

positioning pairs of said cylindrical articles in loading ends of said chutes simultaneously from a loading magazine proximate the loading end of said dispenser display and loading the cylindrical articles from said loading magazine.

28. (Currently Amended) A dispensing and display device for cylindrical articles comprising:

a pair of vertical panels having first and second serpentine chutes formed therebetween, said chutes being inclined relative to horizontal whereby cylindrical articles contained therein may be advanced by gravity towards the lower portion of said display device, said first and second chutes each being of substantially C-shaped configuration; said chutes each having an upper portion and a lower portion;

a first stop means proximate to the lower portion of the first of said chutes for preventing further downward motion of said cylindrical articles therein;

a second stop means formed proximate the lower portion of the second of said chutes for preventing further downward motion of said cylindrical articles therein;

a return area located proximate said first and second [chute] chutes for allowing replacement of one of said cylindrical articles on said display device after removal from said chutes;

wherein the second of said chutes is formed in such a manner as to promote the movement of said cylindrical articles in said second of said chutes in a direction away from the second stop means when a minimum quantity of said cylindrical articles in said second of said chutes is reached.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) The display device of claim 10 wherein said return area is located proximate the first stop means and proximate the first and second cylindrical articles disposed at the lower portion of said second chute.

33. (Currently Amended) A dispensing and display device for cylindrical articles comprising:

a pair of vertical panels having first and second serpentine chutes formed therebetween, said chutes being inclined relative to horizontal whereby cylindrical articles contained therein may be advanced by gravity towards the lower portion of said display device, said first and second chutes each being of substantially C-shaped configuration; said chutes each having an upper portion and a lower portion;

a first stop means proximate to the lower portion of the first of said chutes for preventing further downward motion of said cylindrical articles therein;

a second stop means formed proximate the lower portion of the second of said chutes for preventing further downward motion of said cylindrical articles therein;

a return area located proximate said first and second chutes for allowing replacement of one of said cylindrical articles on said display device after removal from said chutes; said return area comprises a cradle located proximate the distal end of one of said first and second chutes for allowing return of one or more cylindrical articles after removal of said cylindrical article from said device;

said cradle [comprises] comprising a raised portion on each of said vertical panels proximate the lower portion of said second chute and offset from said distal end of second chute so as to allow retention of one or more cylindrical articles on top of and above said cylindrical articles disposed in said second chute.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The dispensing device of claim 10 wherein said second chute contains sufficient space to hold a substantially greater number of cylindrical articles than said first chute.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A dispenser and display rack for substantially cylindrical articles, said dispenser comprising:

(a) a plurality of vertically disposed panels, each of said panels having one or more rails extending horizontally therefrom toward an opposing vertical panel, said rails defining a plurality of chutes therebetween, said chutes being slightly greater in width than said cylindrical articles so as to allow said cylindrical articles to be stored therein and dispensed therefrom;

(b) said chutes further being slightly inclined so as to allow said cylindrical articles to be advanced by means of gravity from an upper position on said panel in said chutes to a lower portion position on said panels in said chutes;

(c) a removal area disposed proximate said lower portion of said chutes for allowing selective removal of one or more of the cylindrical articles from said dispenser;

(d) an access door movable between first and second positions, said access door being mounted proximate said upper portion, said access door being constructed and arranged for closing the upper portion of said chutes in the first position and for opening the upper portion of said chutes in the second position, said access door further having a front face for advertising display purposes;

(e) a plurality of retention pins constructed and arranged to selectively interlock each of said vertical panels to the opposing vertical panel so as to fixedly position said panels relative to each other; and

(f) a plurality of bosses formed proximate each corner of each of said panels, each of said bosses having an aperture defined therein and a lock mechanism associated with said aperture so as to allow selective locking and unlocking of said retention pins relative to such panel[.],

at least one of said bosses being [boss] on each corner of the top and lower portion of each of said vertical [panel] panels proximate the front [of said vertical panel] thereof and a second pair of bosses proximate the rear of each of said vertical [panel] panels.

38. (Original) The dispensing device of claim 37 and further comprising at least a pair of bosses generally medially disposed proximate the front, the

rear, the top and the lower portion of said dispensing device so as to provide greater rigidity.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) The dispensing device of claim 33 wherein said access door has a handle extending therefrom for facilitating opening and closing of said access door over said top portion of said chute.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A dispenser and display rack for substantially cylindrical articles, said dispenser comprising:

(a) a plurality of vertically disposed panels, each of said panels having one or more rails extending horizontally therefrom toward an opposing one of said panels, said rails of opposing ones of said panels jointly defining a plurality of chutes to guide said articles therebetween,

(b) said chutes further being slightly inclined so as to allow said cylindrical articles to be advanced by means of gravity from an upper position on said panel in said chutes to a lower portion position on said panels in said chutes;

(c) a removal area disposed proximate said lower portion of said chutes for allowing selective removal of one or more of the cylindrical articles from said dispenser;

an access door movable between first and second positions, said access door being mounted proximate said upper portion, said access door being constructed and arranged for closing the upper portion of said chutes in

the first position and for opening the upper portion of said chutes in the second position, said access door further having a front face for advertising display purposes;

wherein each of said chutes has a stop means for preventing unwanted movement of said cylindrical articles, said stop means comprising an incline portion proximate the distal end of said chutes, a flat front out portion and a substantially vertical end stop proximate the end of said chute.

43. (Withdrawn) A loading magazine for dispensing multiple units of cylindrical articles, said loading magazine comprising an overwrap having a perforated strip formed thereon for selectively removing a portion of said over wrap so as to allow said cylindrical articles to be manually ejected from said loading magazine.

44. (Withdrawn) The loading magazine of claim 43 wherein said overwrap comprises a plurality of holes for affixing alphanumeric indicia to said cylindrical articles, an overlap seam on said loading magazine for retaining said loading magazine in a wrapped configuration around said cylindrical articles, said overlap seam having an adhesive strip thereon for affixation and retention of said overlap seam on said loading magazine; and pull tab means for initiating removal of said perforated strip from said loading magazine.

45. (Withdrawn) The loading magazine of claim 43 wherein at least one row of said cylindrical articles containing at least two of said cylindrical articles in each row are retained within said overwrap.

46. (Withdrawn) The loading magazine of claim 44, wherein said overwrap comprises a kraft liner between 32 and 90 pounds.

47. (Withdrawn) A wrapper for packaging cylindrical articles comprising an overwrap formed as a tube having at least one of the longitudinal edges of said paper overlapped and glued to said overwrap with said cylindrical articles being vertically disposed in parallel therein, said overwrap being tightly wrapped around said cylindrical articles; and a tear strip formed in said overwrap longitudinally disposed thereon for allowing selective manual release of said overwrap proximate a first end thereof, thereby allowing manual ejection of said cylindrical articles from said overwrap in parallel to each other.

48. (Withdrawn) The wrapper of claim 47 and further comprising a series of longitudinally disposed apertures proximate the lateral edges of said overwrap when wrapped around said cylindrical articles, said apertures being constructed and arranged for reception of and retention of said cylindrical articles in said overwrap.

49. (Withdrawn) The overwrap of 47 and further comprising front and rear end folds disposed at the proximal and distal end of said overwrap for selectively retaining said cylindrical articles within said overwrap.

50. (Withdrawn) The overwrap of claim 49 wherein said end folds cover substantially all of said front and rear portion of said overwrap when disposed on said cylindrical articles.

51. (Withdrawn) The overwrap of claim 49 wherein said overwrap is constructed of paperboard having a caliper range between .012 and .026 and having a weight per 1,000 square feet of between 48 pounds and 90 pounds.

52. (Withdrawn) The overwrap of claim 47 wherein said tear strip extends along substantially the entire length of one side of said overwrap.

53. (Withdrawn) The overwrap of claim 52 wherein said paperboard comprises solid bleached sulfate.

54. (Withdrawn) The overwrap of claim 47 wherein said overwrap comprises thermoplastic film.

55. (Withdrawn) The overwrap of claim 47 wherein said tear strip comprises a perforated portion of said overwrap.

56. (Withdrawn) A method of packaging canned products for loading into a dispenser and display rack having upper and lower loading ports which comprises:

arranging the canned products in a double row, transversely aligned pairs; and

enclosing a group of the products in a overwrap forming a loading magazine, having a tear strip disposed thereon along its periphery so as to create a removable portion of said overwrap from the remaining carrying portion of said loading magazine, said overwrap being sized, constructed and arranged for feeding said canned products in pairs into said loading ports when the removable portion is removed from said overwrap.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 and further comprising :

attaching a first longitudinal edge of said overwrap to an oppositely disposed panel of said overwrap so as to retain said canned products within said wrapper.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 and further comprising:
removing said removable portion of said overwrap;
aligning said double row of canned products with said loading ports; and
feeding said canned products in pairs into said loading ports.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 wherein said overwrap includes a first closure element and a first closure receiving element and said method further comprises:

attaching said first closure element of said overwrap to said first closure receiving element so as to restrain said product container within said overwrap.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 wherein said overwrap includes first and second closure elements and first and second closure receiving elements; said method further comprising the steps of:

interlocking said first closure element of said first closure receiving element; and

interlocking said second closure element to said second closure receiving element, so as to retain said canned products within said wrapper.

61. (Withdrawn) A method of packaging canned products for loading into a dispenser and display rack, said method comprising:

arranging the canned products in a row; and

enclosing a group of the products in a overwrap forming a loading magazine having a tear strip disposed thereon along its periphery so as to create a removable portion of said overwrap from the remaining carrying portion of said loading magazine, said overwrap being sized, constructed and arranged for feeding said canned products when said removable portion is removed from said overwrap.

62. (Withdrawn) A method of packaging substantially cylindrical products for loading into a dispenser and display rack having upper and lower loading ports which comprises:

arranging the substantially cylindrical products in a double row of transversely aligned pairs; and

enclosing a group of the products in a overwrap forming a loading magazine, having a tear strip disposed thereon along its periphery so as to create a removable portion of said overwrap from the remaining carrying portion of said loading magazine, said overwrap being sized, constructed and arranged for feeding said substantially cylindrical products in pairs into said loading ports when removable portion is removed from said overwrap.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62 and further comprising:

attaching a first longitudinal edge of said overwrap to an oppositely disposed panel of said overwrap so as to retain said product containers within said overwrap.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62 and further comprising:

removing said removable portion of said overwrap;
aligning said double row of products with said loading ports; and
feeding said product container in pairs into said loading ports.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62 wherein said overwrap includes a first closure element and a first closure receiving element and said method further comprises:

attaching said first closure element of said overwrap to said first closure receiving element so as to restrain said product container within said overwrap.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62 wherein said overwrap includes first and second closure elements and first and second closure receiving elements; said method further comprising the steps of:

interlocking said first closure element of said first closure receiving element; and

interlocking said second closure element to said second closure receiving element, so as to retain said substantially cylindrical products within said overwrap.

67. (Withdrawn) A method of packaging substantially cylindrical products for loading into a dispenser and display rack, said method comprising:

arranging the substantially cylindrical products in a row; and

enclosing a group of the products in an overwrap forming a loading magazine having a tear strip disposed thereon circumferentially about its

periphery so as to create a removable portion of said overwrap from the remaining carrying portion of said loading magazine, said overwrap being sized, constructed and arranged for feeding said substantially cylindrical products when said removable portion is removed from said overwrap.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 wherein said tear strip comprises a series of perforations in said overwrap, and said method comprises the additional step of:

fracturing said perforations so as to enable removal of said removable portion of said wrapper.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 wherein said step of feeding said product from said overwrap comprises:

expelling said product from said wrapper.

70. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 wherein said step of feeding said product from said wrapper comprises:

rolling said product out of said wrapper.

71. (Currently Amended) A dispenser and display rack system for storing and displaying [cylindrically shaped] products [of common longitudinal dimension] on store shelving, said system comprising a display module and a door, said display module including a pair of side panels disposed in spaced-apart side-by-side relation defining an operative panel orientation, rails affixed to said panels forming at least one product rail chute disposed between said panels, each said chute [being of transverse dimension slightly greater than said longitudinal dimension] and having a loading end, a dispensing end and

an elongated product travel path descending at least substantially full length from said loading end to said dispensing end, said door being moveable from a closed position wherein said door is disposed transversely between said panels above said dispensing end in access closing relation to said loading end, to a removed position in access opening relation to said loading end[.], said display module including a plurality of retention pins connecting said panels, there being at least one of said pins engaging said panels in a first manner to permit shifting thereof between a collapsed condition and said operative panel orientation and in a second manner to lock said panels in said operative panel orientation, said door being connected to one of said retention pins for pivotal movement to thereby open and close access to said loading end.

72. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 71 wherein said rails [rail] form a plurality of rail [rails] chutes and wherein said display module has an open front region between said walls, said open front region having an upper section and a lower section.

73. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 72 [71], there being first and second rail chutes, the loading end of the first of said chutes being located at said upper section and disposed above the loading end of the second of said chutes, the discharge end of the first of said chutes being located at said lower section and disposed below the discharge end of the second of said chutes.

74. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 73, said door being sized to simultaneously open and close access at said upper section to the loading end of each of said chutes.

75. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 72 [73] wherein each of said chutes has a discharge end and wherein said display module further includes product travel stops proximal the discharge end of each of said chutes.

76. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 75 wherein said product stops are offset from each other with respect to the horizontal a sufficient distance to permit placement of a product atop and between adjacent products disposed at the discharge end of the first of said chutes.

77. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 76 wherein the discharge end of the second of said chutes is disposed slightly above the discharge end of the first of said chutes [a distance slightly greater than the diameter of the] and products therein.

78. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 73 wherein said travel path of each of said chutes is generally C-shaped.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Canceled)

81. (Canceled)

82. (Canceled)

83. (Canceled)

84. (Canceled)

85. (Canceled)

86. (Canceled)

87. (Canceled)

88. (Withdrawn) A method of packaging canned products for loading onto a display structure, comprising:

arranging the products in at least one row; and

enclosing the row of products in a overwrap forming a loading magazine, having a tear strip disposed thereon along its periphery so as to create a removable portion of said overwrap from the remaining carrying portion of said loading magazine, said overwrap being sized, constructed and arranged for feeding said products along the direction of the row into the display structure when the removable portion is removed from said overwrap.

89. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 88, further comprising:

removing said removable portion of said overwrap;

aligning said row of products with a corresponding vacant area of the display structure; and

feeding said products in a row into the display structure.

90. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 88 wherein the display structure is a standard shelf.